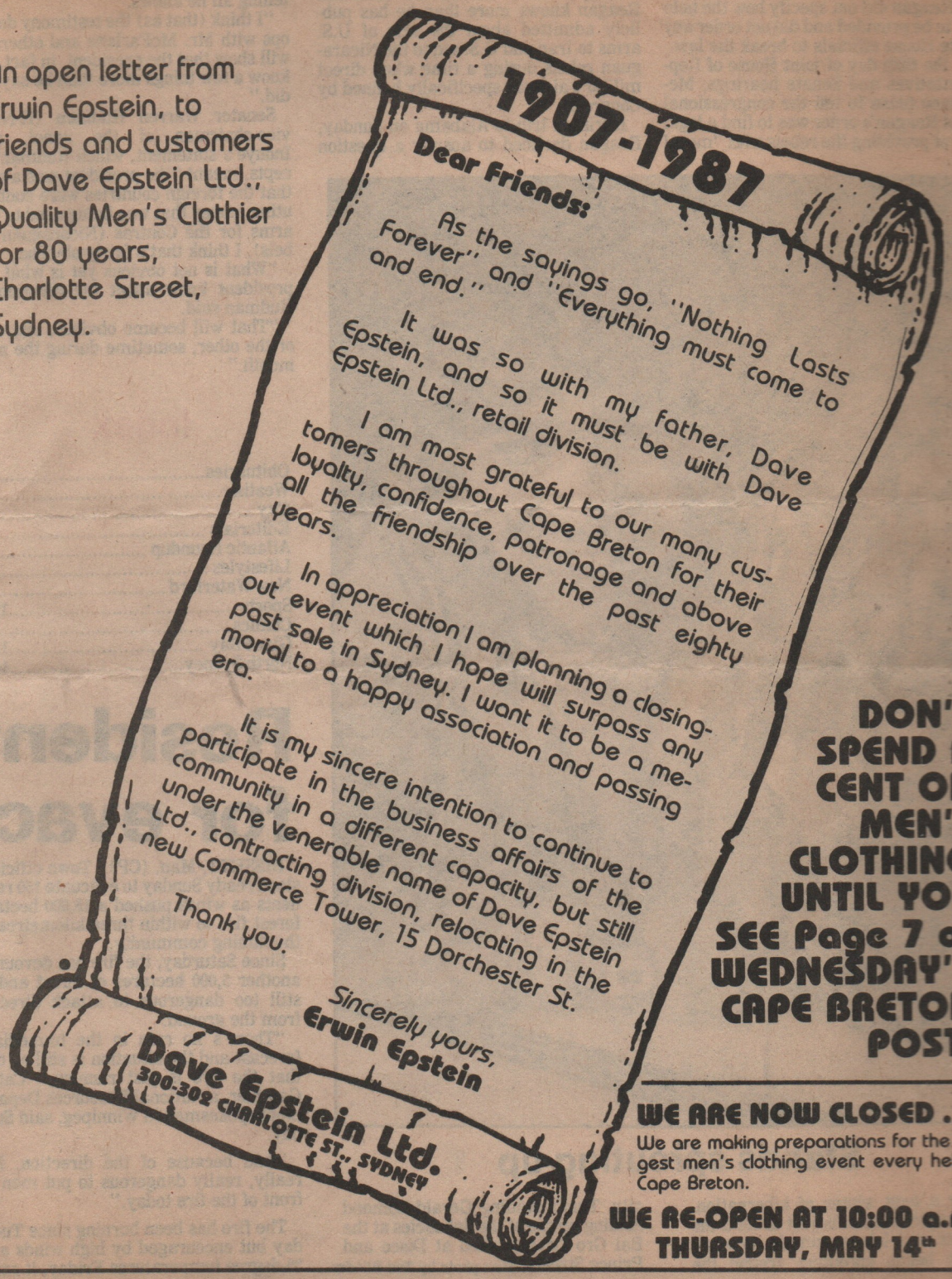
7

Dave Epstein

Album
2013.17

An open letter from Erwin Epstein, to friends and customers of Dave Epstein Ltd., Quality Men's Clothier for 80 years, Charlotte Street, Sydney.


1907-1987
Dear Friends:
As the sayings go, "Nothing Lasts Forever" and "Everything must come to and end.",
It was so with my father, Dave Epstein, and so it must be with Dave Epstein Ltd., retail division.
I am most grateful to our many customers throughout Cape Breton for their loyalty, confidence, patronage and above all the friendship over the past eighty years.
In appreciation I am planning a closing-out event which I hope will surpass any past sale in Sydney. I want it to be a memorial to a happy association and passing era.
It is my sincere intention to continue to participate in the business affairs of the community in a different capacity, but still under the venerable name of Dave Epstein Ltd., contracting division, relocating in the new Commerce Tower, 15 Dorchester St.
Thank you.
Sincerely yours,
Erwin Epstein
Dave Epstein Ltd.
300-302 CHARLOTTE ST., SYDNEY

DON'T SPEND A CENT ON MEN'S CLOTHING UNTIL YOU SEE Page 7 of WEDNESDAY'S CAPE BRETON POST!

WE ARE NOW CLOSED . . .

We are making preparations for the biggest men's clothing event every held in Cape Breton.

WE RE-OPEN AT 10:00 a.m. THURSDAY, MAY 14th

Epstein's ends long stand on Charlotte

By Steve MacInnis
Staff Writer

It's the kind of business the majority of companies strive for but only the best achieve.

Consistent good sales of a product over 80 years indicate someone must be doing something right. In this case, the formula has been hard work.

The final chapter in the success story of Dave Epstein Ltd. is being written as the legacy left behind by one of Cape Breton's most colourful businessmen came to end Saturday.

"It will be a well-known door that will be closing," says Erwin Epstein, whose father, Dave, began the firm in 1907.

Under the slogan "Quality comes first" Epstein offered famous names in men's clothing, from head-to-toe, for all shapes and sizes.

"I think of my father as a man ahead of his time," says the younger Epstein, pointing to a few of his father's sometimes zany promotion ideas.

"Meet me face to face," was a classic slogan. With it, Epstein challenged everyone to come and see the man whose face was imprinted on everything from travel bags to road signs.

Even road signs in Cape Breton advised travellers how far they were from Epstein's shop. The signs could even be found across Canada and in various countries around the world.

An avid sports fan, Epstein sponsored numerous sporting events here, and local athletes who competed outside the area. From swimming to running to softball the Epstein name turned-up on many a team or individual's athletic sweater.

Promotion was one route to success. "I was taught to build-up a reputation," says Erwin, who joined his father in the business in 1949.

Although the retail section of the company is closing, the Epstein name won't vanish completely.

Erwin will move from Charlotte Street to the new Commerce Tower Building on the corner of Dorchester Street and the Esplanade to open a speciality shop. Companies will be able to purchase clothing such as employee uniforms, and other bulk items.

Epstein's closing leaves only two men's stores on Charlotte Street. At one time there were six.

The reason Erwin has decided to cut back the business's size is because he wants to take life a bit easier.

There are no other family members who want to take over the store. Erwin doesn't want to sell the business name. So the businessman says it's time to get out and begin to relax a little.

Erwin's father opened the business in Whitney Pier before moving to Charlotte Street in the building now occupied by McKnight's Music Store. In 1929, the Epstein Block was built.

Through the years, the store has become something of an institution in downtown Sydney. It was always a place for people to drop by, not just to buy clothes, but to chat, even to have a cup of coffee.

ERWIN EPSTEIN GOES over a family scrapbook under a photo of his late father, Dave Epstein.
Post photo by Steve MacInnis

"Being personal is the key. The retail business has gotten away from that type of service," says Erwin. He says it's something the family prided itself on.

Over the years, Erwin says he's watched many families grow-up. He now sees their children shopping in the store.

About his father, Erwin says he had "sincere love of people and was very personal." He says he inherited the same attitudes.

Dave Epstein, who came to Canada from Minsk in Poland, died last August. He was 95.

Erwin is proud of the contribution his family has made to Sydney's business community. He also takes pride in the honest reputation the store has earned.

At a time when many business closures are a result of poor management or poor quality merchandise, many people may think it refreshing to see a store close voluntarily, and keeping its good name.

Erwin is not without a little sadness closing a family tradition. But he's looking to the new venture, to which he pledges the same care and service.

"It's the end of an era," says Erwin adding the time spent was most enjoyable and satisfying.

MEN, IT'S DAVE EPSTEIN LTD'S. . .

Going Out of Business SALE

Never Have So Many Bought So Much For So Little!

The opening day crowds were more than we expected - and they bought a ton! They saved a truckload of money - but don't worry . . . we have plenty of savings for you, too!

WE HAVE YOUR SIZE - UP TO SIZE 60!

Come in now while selection is at its best!

You may have to wait a few minutes, but when you get in you'll find that the short wait was very worthwhile!

ALL OUR FAMOUS HIGH QUALITY MEN'S WEAR GOING FOR SAVINGS OF 1/2 PRICE and MORE!

Buy now for . . .

- ✓ **WEDDING**
- ✓ **GRADUATION**
- ✓ **EVEN THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS SHOPPING**

Visit our . . .

Bargain Basement

on our Lower Level

SAVE 1/2

Samuelsohn

May 20, 1987

Erwin Epstein,
300 Charlotte St.,
Sydney, N.S.
B1P 1C7

Dear Erwin,

Sylvia was kind enough to send me the article about Epstein's ending his long stand on Charlotte Street, and the ad which ran on what day I don't know, where there was an open letter from you to the friends and customers of Dave Epstein Ltd. etc.

The article was most interesting, and I was especially impressed with the way the ad was written and presented. It was very, very high classed and well done. You have my assurance again, as if you need it, that we are treating Dave Epstein Ltd. the same way we have always done, or actually better if we possibly can.

I do hope our association continues to be a very long and mutually successful one.

With my kindest regards to yourself and Sylvia and best wishes, I am,

Yours very truly,

Richard Samuelson

Samuelsohn Limitée, 6930, avenue du Parc, Montréal, Québec, Canada H3N 1W9
Téléphone (514) 273-7741 Télex 05-825878, HEART MTL.

I wish you all every happiness and success in your new business.

Wishing you the very best,

Sandy Bickerton.

Dear Mr & Mrs Irwin Epstein and Staff,

Thank you so much for the fine service you have provided me over the ~~the~~ last few years. My family also has had good experiences with you. Thank you for your friendliness, helpfulness, and fine quality of your clothes & footwear.

NATHAN B. EPSTEIN, M. D.

June 3/87

Dear Erwin:

Thanks for sending me the clipping from the paper. It was most thoughtful of you and I really appreciate it.

I was very glad to receive it but it made me feel very sad. It is the end of a wonderful era — and it leaves a very sorry void. However — that is life — things change — old things end — new things develop — we must go on. All the best on your new venture. Love to Sheyna — As ever —

Nate

.. EPSTEIN, M.D., C.M., D.RAD., F.R.C.P.[C]

99 AVENUE ROAD
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5R 2G5
TELEPHONE 921-4757

May 20/87

Dear Sylvia & Ernie,

Many thanks for your news and the lovely article in the Post.

I am very interested in that article, and I appreciate your thoughtfulness very much. I certainly will be keeping that article in my Scrap Books. That is really History.

It really is the end of that era - and it is sad But such is life and one carries on!

How so pleased that the Epstein name is going out in Class - which it rightly deserves. Your Father was the Progenitor of the Epstein Dynasty - which Nate, Fal and I treasure so much. So do you.

Love from Madeleine and my Family.

Kindest Regards.

Love,

Bucky

DR. NORMAN EPSTEIN & ASSOCIATES
ALLERGY AND CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY
215 ST. CLAIR AVE. WEST
TORONTO, ONTARIO
M4V 1R3
TELEPHONES:
921-8073
921-8101

May 21/87

Dear Cousin Erwin & Sylvia:

Congratulations on opening your new Contracting division at the Commerce Tower and I wish you another eighty "80" successful and "Happy" years. I am sure you will do honour to the Dave Epstein name.

Please stay well - be happy and look forward to seeing both of you again. Love from Cousin Norman

DEAN MORGAN
COMMUNICATIONS
INC

June 30, 1987

Dave Epstein Ltd.
15 Dorchester Street
Sydney, Novia Scotia B1S 1B2
Attn: Mr. Erwin Epstein

Dear Erwin:

Thank you for the shirts. They look and fit great.

I was impressed by the ads. Better than any agency could do because they had a personal touch to the hard sell.

Good luck to you and your wife in your new endeavor.

Sincerely,

Joseph V. Padulo/rmv

Joseph V. Padulo

JVP/rmv

Samuelsohn

June 14, 2002

Mr. Erwin Epstein
1402-260 Heath St West
York, ON M5P 3L6

Dear Erwin;

Many thanks for your note of June 6 and I am very pleased to hear that your blazer is to your satisfaction, and, as always, it is a pleasure to look after you.

When you start with us, in your case before anyone else—when was it with your father, around 1916?,--- you become mishpocheh and you always remain part of the family. You can't escape it!!!

We are all well, and I'm taking Laurie back to Bayreuth in August for some more long opera. The kids are now 17 and 15, and great. How many grandchildren have you now?

I made a note of your number. Have a wonderful summer, and this includes Sylvia, of course, who you will kiss for me.

Kind Regards,

Richard

SAMUELSOHN LIMITÉE
6930, AVENUE DU PARC, MONTRÉAL (QUÉBEC) CANADA H3N 1W9
TÉL.: (514) 273-7741 FAX: (514) 273-1462

THE ST. ANDREW'S LODGE OF CAPE BRETON

A. F. & A. M. No. 7, R.N.S.

No. 341

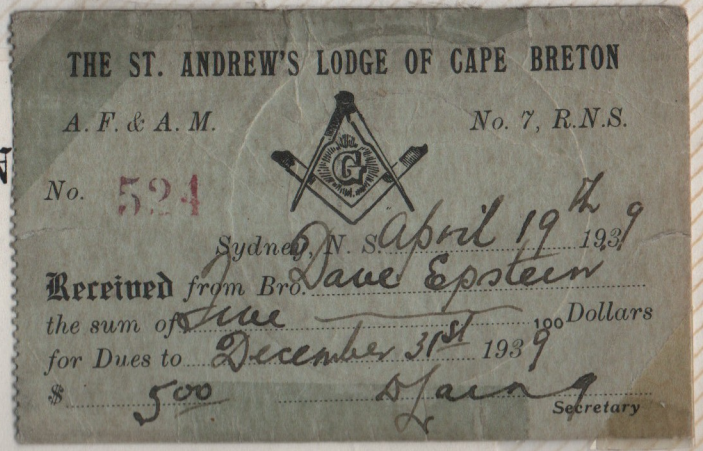
Sydney, N. S. April 26th 1938

Received from Bro. D Epstein

the sum of Ten 25/100 Dollars

for Dues to December 31st 1938

$ 10 25 D Laing Secretary



THE ST. ANDREW'S LODGE OF CAPE BRETON

A. F. & A. M. No. 7, R.N.S.

No. 524

Sydney, N. S. April 19th 1939

Received from Bro. Dave Epstein

the sum of Five 100 Dollars

for Dues to December 31st 1939

$ 5 00 D Laing Secretary

ew's Lodge of Cape Breton, N

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

MEETS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Sydney, Nova Scotia

August 27, 1987

Mr. Erwin Epstein
500 King's Road
Apt. 1801
Sydney, N.S.
B1S 1A8

Dear Erwin:

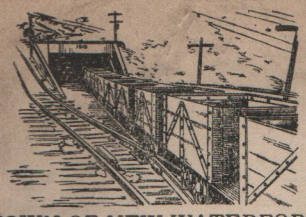
I wish to acknowledge receipt of your late Dad's Masonic Apron and ritual. These items were received from Mr. Lewis Allen with instructions that they be placed in the Lodge Archives.

On behalf of the Lodge, I wish to thank you for these momentos.

Yours truly,

H.A.W. McCoubrey

TELEPHONE NO. 139



TOWN OF NEW WATERFORD

OFFICE OF

MAYOR

NEW WATERFORD, N. S., July 31, 1929.

Mr. Dave Epstein,
Clothier & Furnisher,
Sydney, N. S.

Dear Dave:-

Congratulations, your new store is a credit to you, your City, and Contractors in charge.

May your initative, enterprise, and courage meet with the success so richly deserved.

In the end may you successfully elude "The Old Boy Himself".

Very truly yours,

G. D. Walker

MAYOR.

INTERIOR OF NEW STORE

EXTERIOR OF NEW STORE

DAVE HIMSELF

DAVE EPSTEIN
THE EXCLUSIVE CLOTHIER'S
NEW STORE
THE MOST UP-TO-DATE-MEN'S STORE
EAST OF MONTREAL
300 - 302 CHARLOTTE ST., SYDNEY, N. S.

"DAVE EPSTEIN"
THE EXCLUSIVE CLOTHIER'S
NEW STORE
BIGGER AND BETTER
300—302 CHARLOTTE ST., SYDNEY, N.S.

Y.M.C.A.
SYDNEY, N. S.

Dave Epstein

IS ENTITLED TO
FULL PRIVILEGES IN THE

Social SECTION

UNTIL December 1, 1941

TOTE BOX NO.

R. A. Benson
General Secretary

Dave Epstein
Members Signature

BE SURE TO CARRY YOUR
TICKET ALWAYS

Gets Reply From Ontario Company

DAVID EPSTEIN

Well Known Sydney merchant, who today received a letter from an Ontario firm with which he buys woolen goods stating they will make changes

SAY THEY WILL USE C.B. FUEL

Hamilton Company Will Turn From U. S. Product if Bennett Makes Prices Right.

Utmost sympathy for Maritime coal-steel claims and intimation that if parliament is able to make prices right Ontario will gladly turn from American to Nova Scotia coal is contained in a letter received today by the Snell Plan, from the Consolidated Sales-book and Wax Paper, Limit-

ght
nts

r of
our
with
ken
ers.

be-
der-
e in
eing
tario
the
rters
d be
Cape
iver-

nally
ately
Nova
cured

You can rest assured that if the Government makes any concessions to allow Cape Breton coal to meet competition in the Ontario market, you will have our support 100 per cent.

Our business relations in the past have been most cordial and we trust that they will continue accordingly in the future.

MSA. 97

The authorized holder must sign here in ink and must carry this certificate at all times and produce it on request:

Sign here: David Epstein

MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1917
CERTIFICATE OF PROTECTION

This is to certify that on November 11th, 1918, the authorized holder of this certificate whose name, address and signature appear hereon, was in good standing under the Military Service Act, 1917, on the records of the undernoted Registrar. This certificate when properly completed will be accepted as evidence of good standing in lieu of all certificates of exemption previously issued to him. It may be revoked at any time by proper authority

Registrar M.S.A. E. Hart Nichols at Halifax, N.S.

Authorized holder David Epstein, Serial Number 632744 GC

Address 776 Victoria Road, Sydney, N.S.

Certificate No. 230580

Automobile Legal Association
(MARITIME LIMITED)

CERTIFIES THAT 15540

Mr. David Eps

IS A MEMBER UNTIL DEC 1

RAL MANAGER.

MAKE OF CAR Dodge YEAR 1935

STYLE OF BODY Sedan SERIAL NO. 9462966

(NOT TRANSFERABLE) (OVER)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
HALIFAX, N.S.

7th December, 1942

Dear Mr. Epstein:

It was very kind of you to write me on my new appointment as Lieutenant Governor. Please convey my thanks to Mrs. Epstein whom I remember with pleasure in the days of my practising.

Sincerely yours,

H. E. Kendall

Dave Epstein, Esq.,
300 Charlotte Street,
Sydney, N. S.

CANADA

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No.....

Department of National Defence

Naval Service

Ottawa, Canada. November 25, 1941.

Mr. Dave Epstein,
300-302 Charlotte St.,
SYDNEY. N.S.

Dear Mr. Epstein,

Please accept my most sincere thanks for your very cordial letter of the 21st. I showed it to Zachary yesterday and will let Anna see it when I go up there tomorrow evening.

It is rather strange that - during the time my last letter was on its way to you - I should meet a couple of Nova Scotians. One was Renee Garber and the other was Mrs. Moraff and stranger still, I met them both the same evening, in houses almost opposite each other.

I am very grateful for your kind inviatation to lunch on Sunday next and would love to make a definite committment in this respect, but when you work for His Majesty the King, your time is not always your own. In any event, as soon as I have made my official duty calls, I will give you a ring on the 'phone and then we can make plans fit in according to the routines ~~xxxxxx~~ lined up for me, of which, at the moment I am not aware.

Please forgive the errors in this letter but at 5.45 in the morning I am my own typist, in addition to which I have been on watch for nearly 24 hours and am really beautifully tired, if you understand that phrase.

Looking forward to meeting you and your family, believe me to be,

Very sincerely yours,

Albert Logette.
Lieut. R.C.N.V.R.

H.Q. 1010
500M-1-41 (9038)
N.S. 815-7-1010

JEWISH

The late Dave Epstein is an example of the early Jewish merchants in the Pier. When he arrived in Sydney at the age of 16, in March of 1907, he spoke no English and had no money. To learn the language and earn his living, he began to "peddle" for his uncle Morris Lubchansky, who owned a general store on Victoria Road.

Mr. Epstein's territory was all of Victoria County. "I had a 75 pound pack on my back and a fifty pound pack in front. I walked house to house from Smokey to Bay St. Lawrence." On his return to Sydney nine months later, He worked as a salesman in his uncle's store for a short time and then opened his own store in Sydney Mines. A year later, he moved his business back to the Pier where he remained for eighteen years. His next move was to Charlotte Street, to the building now occupied by McKnight's and in 1929, the Epstein Block was built, which is still the location of Dave Epstein Limited.

D-12 The Gazette, Montreal, Tuesday, August 12, 1986

EPSTEIN, Dave. In Sydney, N.S. Sunday, August 10, 1986. Beloved husband of the late Celia Lubchansky. Dearest father of Buddy, Erwin, Jean Weiser, the late Lloyd and late Nathan. Father-in-law of Eleanor, Sylvia, Gerry Weiser, Muriel Nozick and Elsa Singer. Survived by brother Max, sister Ethel Leith, nine loving grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Funeral Tuesday, August 12 in Sydney, N.S. In lieu of gifts, contributions to Celia and Dave Epstein Grove, Jewish National Fund.

CANADIAN SPIRIT Y·M·C·A MIND BODY

Monday 27 Oct.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Dear Dave:

Many thanks to you and your good wife for your very thoughtful gift. I was very happy to get the cigarettes and happier still when I saw your name on the parcel – it makes a fellow feel good to know that his friends have not forgotten him.

We're having a very fair time of it over here – no air-raids as yet – and food though not plentiful is not scarce just now. I wish you could see my tummy now – it's all gone – and I've lost nearly

FROM THE OFFICE OF
DAVID DUNKELMAN

BOULEVARD DRIVE
TORONTO 2

July 5th, 1937.

Mr. Dave Epstein,
300-302 Charlotte Street,
Sydney, N.S.

Dear Mr. Epstein:

I have just arrived home, and the trip was indeed enjoyable and interesting on the whole, and amongst the outstanding pleasures was meeting you, your charming wife and mother-in-law, and I want you to know that the many kindnesses shown to me are deeply appreciated.

It is my wish that you will visit Toronto some time soon so that I may have an opportunity of reciprocating.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Epstein, and your mother-in-law, I am

Very sincerely,

D Dunkelman

DD:AG.

JEUX CANADA GAMES
GAMES 87
NOVA SCOTIA

December 5, 1986

File Reference:
09-86-0446

Mr. Irwin Epstein
Dave Epstein Limited
Box 1114
Sydney, N.S.
B1P 1C7

Dear Mr. Epstein:

On behalf of our Minister, the Honourable Greg Kerr, I am pleased to enclose a Government of Nova Scotia cheque in the amount of $65,782.50, which represents full payment for Canada Games uniforms supplied by Dave Epstein's Limited.

I am confident that the Nova Scotia contingent will look very impressive in the uniforms during the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 1987 Canada Winter Games. You will have every reason to be proud of the part played by your company in supplying the uniforms.

Sincerely,

Rick Gilbert
Chef-de-Mission
THE HOME TEAM

RG/hlm

Encl.

Nova Scotia
Department of
Culture, Recreation
& Fitness
PO Box 864
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2V2

Proud to be a partner in the 1987 Canada Winter Games

Remember the 1928 edition of the Dave Epstein Tigers? Tigers overpowered tough competition that year to capture the Cape Breton County baseball crown---no mean feat in the days when two or three top teams could be mustered in Sydney alone. Seated at front are "Ubbie" Libbus, left, and the team's bat-boy whom we were unable to identify. In the second row, left to right are, Hayward Peckman, Harold Davidson, manager Dave Epstein, Len Leadbetter, Ned Snow, and Allan Boone. Standing left to right are, "Chick" Hearn, Ted Snow, Hughie MacKenzie, Jack Muggah and Louis Mendleson.

DAVE EPSTEIN

Honorary Dinner Set For Monday

Dave Epstein, long time friend and promoter of sport in Cape Breton, will be honored at a testimonial dinner next Monday night at the Isle Royale Hotel starting at 6:30 p.m.

New and old friends alike, including twice Boston Marathon winner Johnny Miles, will gather at the function to honor the man who gave so much of his time and energy since coming to Canada in 1907 from Poland at 15-years-of-age to find his future.

It wasn't long before Dave had a stake and opened a store in Sydney Mines. Then he operated at Whitney Pier and by 1925 had enough money to build a block in Sydney.

Long before his Sydney venture he promoted sports in the Steel City. The famous Epstein harbour swim as known throughout Canada and was first won by the great Warren Anderson. The Epstein marathon run brought out such stars as Johnny Miles and was annually watched by thousands.

Perhaps Dave's most popular event was the Epstein walkathon from Glace Bay to Sydney. In this event, a woman from Glace Bay, 76-year-old Mrs. Corbett, finished well up with the leaders. The feat attracted international recognition and then Boston Mayor Jim Curley invited Mrs. Corbett to be his city's guest.

In spite of long hours of work in his early days, Dave seemed to find more time for recreation. Summers were filled with baseball, tennis, picnics and dances. Rowboats could be rented for 25 cents near the site of the present Yacht Club in Sydney. In later years, organized leagues played baseball in Victoria Park and Mr. Epstein remembers in 1931 and 1935 when Dave Epstein's Tigers were invited to Cornerbrook and Grand Falls, Newfoundland to play teams there.

Not only did Dave promote sports, but he also contributed to the treasury of many young clubs. He is still remembered for his posting of sports pictures in his downtown store windows.

"Dave Epstein's Tigers" began competing in the various bowling leagues over the past number of years and are still competing in the Sydney Commercial League.

Johnny Miles, a longtime friend of Mr. Epstein, will be guest speaker at Monday night's testimonial.

Tickets are available at Young's Sight and Sound in Sydney, Capital Drug Store in Sydney Mines, Owl Drug Store in North Sydney and Carroll's Drug Store in Glace Bay.

Dinner Tonight

Johnny Miles, the Sydney Mines native who twice won the Boston Marathon will be the special speaker at a Testimonial Dinner to be held at the Isle Royale Hotel this evening in honor of veteran businessman-sportsman Dave Epstein.

Miles, a longtime friend of Epstein, is coming here from an appearance in New Glasgow where he took in the third annual running of the Johnny Miles Marathon, a race held to commemorate his achievements in long-distance running.

Dave Epstein in his early years was one of the top sport promoters in Cape Breton. He sponsored championship road races, swimming races and walkathons, many of which attracted national prominence.

Mr. Epstein came to Canada from Poland at the tender age of 15 years and was able to carve out a highly successful career as a sports promoter and bisinessman.

Tonight friends and associates from his years as both a promoter of sports and businessman will gather at the Isle Royale to honor him with the Testimonial Dinner.

DAVE EPSTEIN TESTIMONIAL DINNER

Monday, May 9th, 1977 — Isle Royale Hotel

Cocktails 6:30
Dinner 7:30
$10.00 per Person

GUEST SPEAKER
JOHNNY MILES

DAVE EPSTEIN
TESTIMONIAL DINNER

MONDAY, MAY 9th, 1977

ISLE ROYALE HOTEL

To Dave Epstein
with every good wish from
Johnny Miles
Winner of Boston marathon
1926 and 1929
July 12, 1977

DR. HAROLD DAVIDSON DAVE EPSTEIN JOHNNY MILES

WARREN ANDERSON

JOHNNY MILES

TYRONE GARDINER JOE SMITH

JOHNNY MILES

DAVE EPSTEIN

DAVE EPSTEIN

JOHN MILES

DR. JOHN WILLISTON

DAVE EPSTEIN

JOHNNY MILES

DAVE EPSTEIN

JOHNNY MILES

DR. HAROLD DAVIDSON

ART POLLETT

M.R. CHAPELL

JOE SMITH

WARREN ANDERSON MRS. DAVE EPSTEIN DAVE EPSTEIN JOHNNY MILES

DAVE EPSTEIN TESTIMONIAL DINNER
MAY 9, 1977

RS. DAVE EPSTEIN (CELIA)

DAVE EPSTEIN

Epstein family has dressed Cape Bretoners for years

This is another in a series of articles prepared for the Bicentennial Focus on Family Committee by Joan Hunt, Joan Elman and Toby Halloran

Dave Epstein was born in 1890, in a small hamlet in the province of Minsk, White Russia. Because Jews had been permitted to own land in his grandfather's time, Dave's father owned a water-powered flour mill in addition to lumber woods and farming fields that he hired out in return for one-third of the yield.

Four miles away was a little town and there Dave received his formal schooling. Because Jews weren't allowed to attend regular schools, this was one of many private 'chedars', supported by the families of pupils. There the boy studied the Torah and the Hebrew language.

As the age of 13, Dave

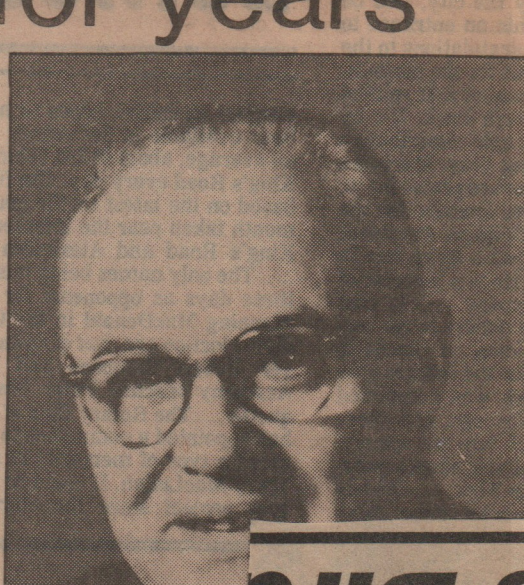
In the meantime, he became involved with the Laboring Class of Zion, a socialist labor organization of the Jewish working class. Because such groups were illegal, meetings were held in secret. They moved into the open in 1905 when the tsar proclaimed freedom of speech. That, however, was only a scheme to trap the socialists and Dave was one of those who was caught and had his passport taken from him.

Dave returned home and that fall, his aunt's husband, already in America, sent for her. Dave, seeing no real future in remaining where he was, decided to go along. An assumed name, plus some money placed in the right hands, enabled him to emigrate.

His original intention had been to go to Philadelphia but an uncle in Sydney, Morris Lubchansky, had suggested

Dave's arrival was part of a human chain reaction. He was brought by his uncle, who had been brought here by a Nathanson, who had been brought by a Davidson, who had been brought by a Brodie, one of the first settlers in Glace Bay. Later, when he was established in business, Dave was to bring in his brothers Max, Jack, and Benny, a cousin, Saul Epstein, and a friend, Israel 'I.B.' Perlin who was to endear himself to three generations as the proprietor of the Sanitary Dairy.

When three months in his uncle's store failed to teach Dave English — partly because the customers spoke little English — the 15-year old boy was provided with a 125 pound pack and sent to peddle around Victoria County. Although greatly discouraged at times, he



Dav

stuck it out and started exchange, however.

After seven months peddling, and $200 in th red, Dave returned Sydney and went to wor as a salesman in his u cle's store. It was durin this period he conclude inferior quality is never bargain or value at an price. He made that on of his guiding rules whe he opened his own store i the Pier, and later whe he built his store on Char lotte Street.

Having discovered tha many Cape Breton meu weren't built to the sta

OTTAWA — The political pulse of the capital is barely perceptible. The House of Commons is empty. It is an ideal time to sit quietly and add up the achievements and failures virtually unnoticed that, next year, old age pensions would not be indexed until the cost of living rose by more than

On the social front, the atmosphere is quite different: tense and uneasy.

At the moment, Ottawa's $40-billion package of social programs remains virtually un-

be made in the child benefit system.

— In May, Wilson an-

Thi
Ca
Ca
Ca
Ca

AN OPEN INVITATION FROM ERWIN EPSTEIN . . .

Dear Friends and Customers:

At this joyous time of year we are in the early stages of preparing for our 75th Anniversary which takes place throughout 1982.

As a special kickoff to this occasion we are going to start celebrating early with a . . . Big pre-75th Anniversary Christmas Saving Event, and you're invited to come in and save a big 25 per cent off on all our high quality famous brand name merchandise. Absolutely everything in the store!

This special event will be effective Dec. 7 to closing Dec. 24.

Please come and help us celebrate and enjoy the savings.

INTERIOR OF NEW STORE

EXTERIOR OF NEW STORE

DAVE HIMSELF

DAVE EPSTEIN
THE EXCLUSIVE CLOTHIER'S
NEW STORE
THE MOST UP-TO-DATE-MEN'S STORE
EAST OF MONTREAL
300 - 302 CHARLOTTE ST., SYDNEY, N. S.

"DAVE EPSTEIN"
THE EXCLUSIVE CLOTHIER'S
NEW STORE
BIGGER AND BETTER
300—302 CHARLOTTE ST., SYDNEY, N.S.

DAVE EPSTEIN
TOPS
PRODUCTS

Citizen of the week Award

Is presented by CHER November 1969

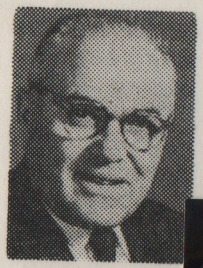
to

Dave Epstein

In recognition of your outstanding service toward community betterment in making Cape Breton a better place in which to live

Merv L. Russell

MERV RUSSELL VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL MANAGER



MEET ME
FACE TO FACE

dave epstein ltd.

Exclusive Clothier

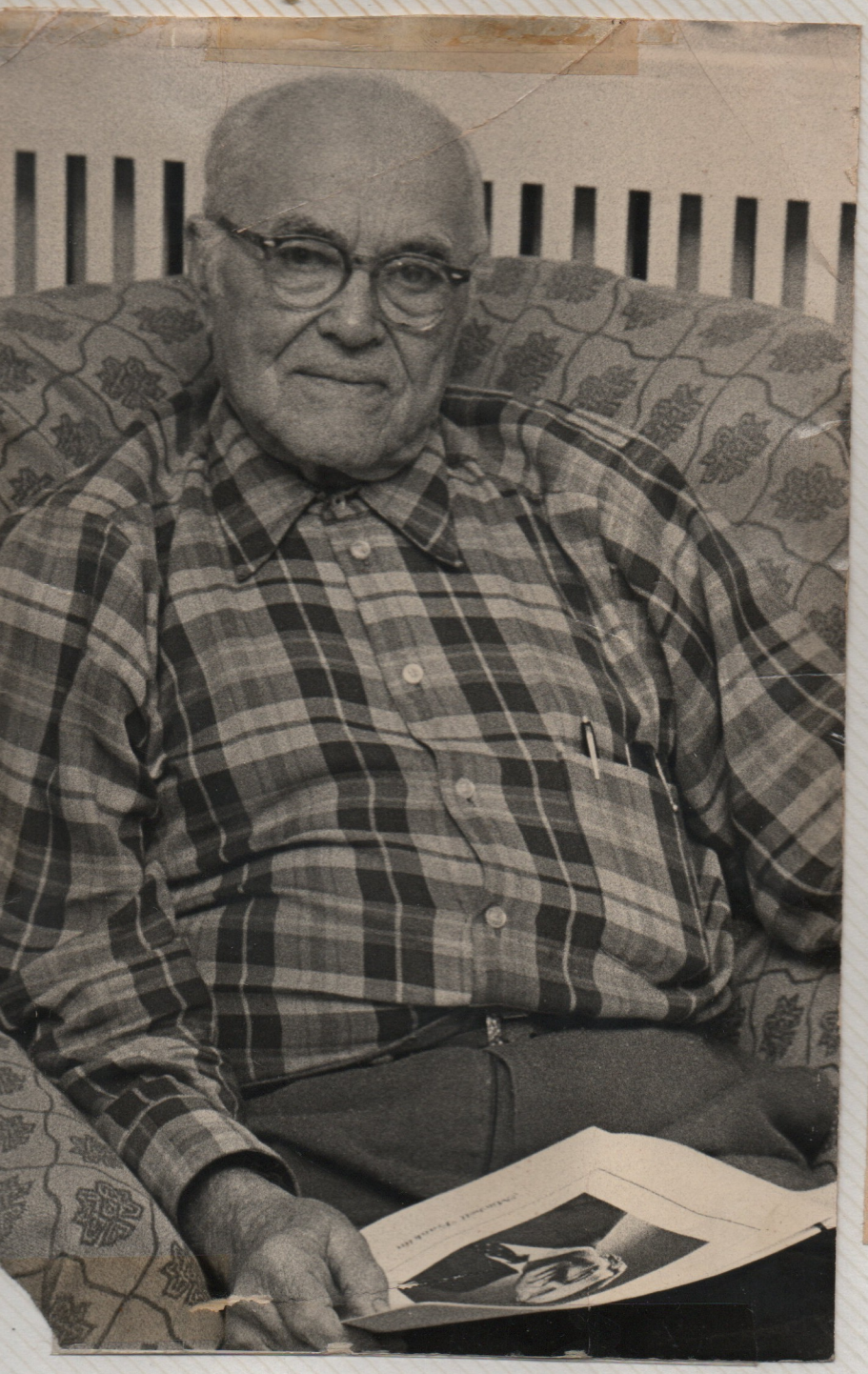
300-302 CHARLOTTE STREET

MEN'S AND BOYS'
CLOTHING AND
FURNISHINGS

•

FOOTWEAR FOR
MEN

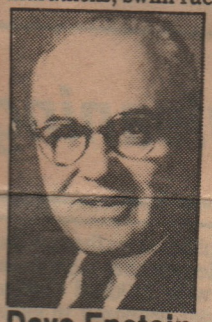
SHED



Businessman Dave Epstein dead at 95

Dave Epstein, 95, a highly respected citizen of Sydney, died on Sunday, August 10.

He was a well known merchant establishing the business which still bears his name. He had been very prominent as a sports promoter sponsoring road races, marathons, swim races, boxing, etc. for which he received recognition by being accepted in the Nova Scotia Sports Hall of Fame. He was the oldest member of the Maritime Jewish community. He was a life member of St. Andrew's Masonic Lodge, a member of the Temple Sons of Israel.



Dave Epstein

He is survived by one brother, Max and a sister Ethel Leith; two sons; Dr. Murray S. (Buddy) and Erwin; one daughter, Jean (Mrs. GerryWeiser), nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his wife, the former Celia Lubchansky, two sons; Lloyd and Nathan, four brothers; Saul, Jack, Benny and Eli; two sisters; Libby Kaplan and Rose Allen.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, August 12 at 2 p.m. from Sydney Memorial Chapel. Interment will take place in the Hebrew Cemetery.

Dave Epstein
LIMITED
EST'D 1907

Men's Quality Clothing & Furnishings
Footwear for Men
Contracting Division for all Types of Uniforms

Bus. 564-6143

300 - 302 CHARLOTTE ST.
SYDNEY, N.S.

SIZES TO FIT UP TO SIZE 60

1986

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

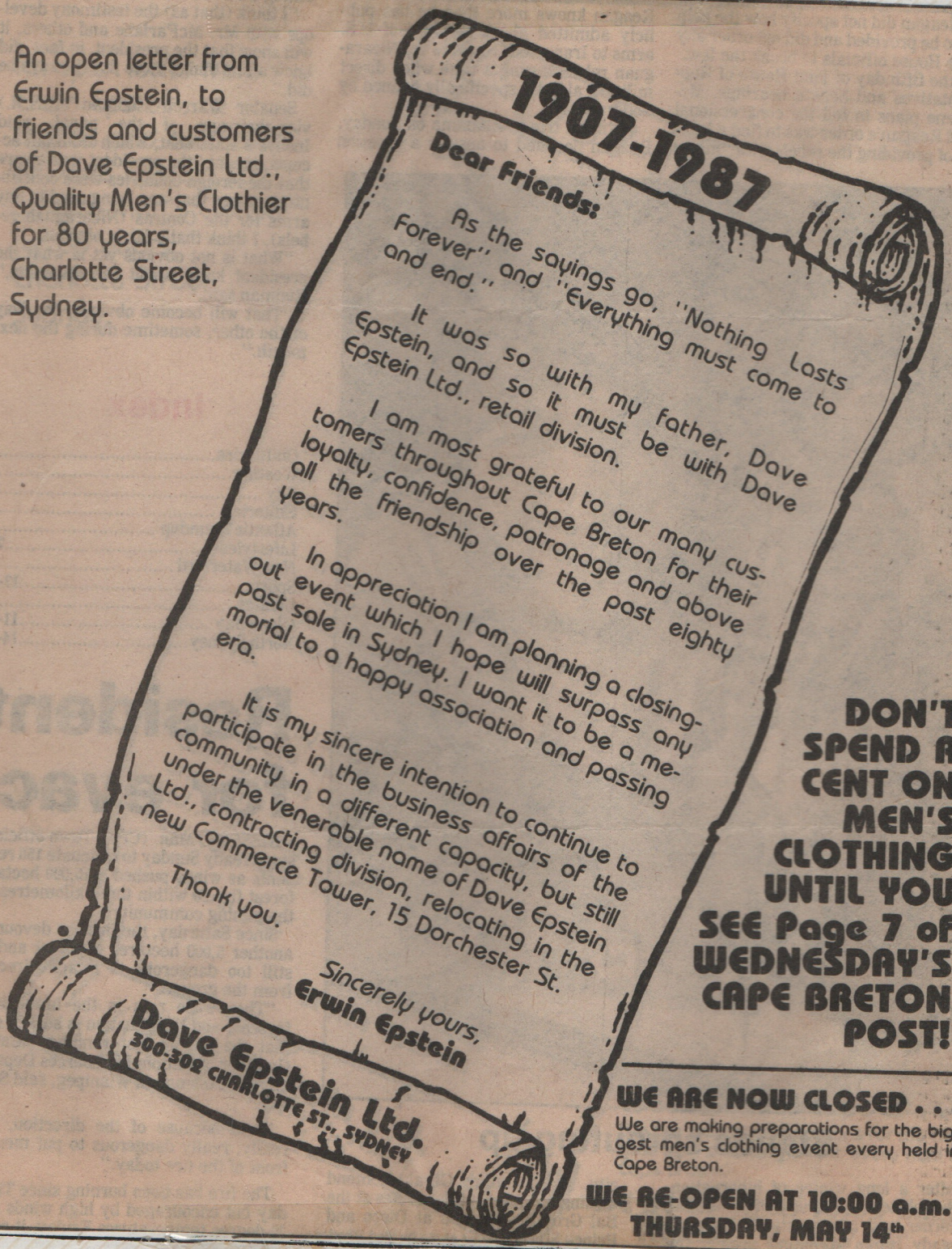
NOVEMBER

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

An open letter from Erwin Epstein, to friends and customers of Dave Epstein Ltd., Quality Men's Clothier for 80 years, Charlotte Street, Sydney.


1907-1987
Dear Friends:
As the sayings go, "Nothing Lasts Forever" and "Everything must come to and end.",
It was so with my father, Dave Epstein, and so it must be with Dave Epstein Ltd., retail division.
I am most grateful to our many customers throughout Cape Breton for their loyalty, confidence, patronage and above all the friendship over the past eighty years.
In appreciation I am planning a closing-out event which I hope will surpass any past sale in Sydney. I want it to be a memorial to a happy association and passing era.
It is my sincere intention to continue to participate in the business affairs of the community in a different capacity, but still under the venerable name of Dave Epstein Ltd., contracting division, relocating in the new Commerce Tower, 15 Dorchester St.
Thank you.
Sincerely yours,
Erwin Epstein
Dave Epstein Ltd.
300-302 CHARLOTTE ST., SYDNEY

DON'T SPEND A CENT ON MEN'S CLOTHING UNTIL YOU SEE Page 7 of WEDNESDAY'S CAPE BRETON POST!

WE ARE NOW CLOSED . . .

We are making preparations for the biggest men's clothing event every held in Cape Breton.

WE RE-OPEN AT 10:00 a.m. THURSDAY, MAY 14th

WW/Clark

Nova Scotia's blue and white were prominent when the province's team marched into Centre 200 for the opening ceremonies of the 1987 Canada Winter Games in Sydney yesterday. The sixth annual sports and cultural event will run at various venues around Cape Breton Island for the next two weeks. Shown modeling the Nova Scotia marching out uniforms are, from left, back row, cross country skiers Nancy Crickard and Michael Neary; and front row, rhythmic gymnasts Sarah McCluskey and Brighid Redmond. The uniforms were designed by Bill Dauphinee of BRY Consultants of Halifax and supplied by Dave Epstein Men's Wear Ltd. of Syd

Epstein's ends long stand on Charlotte

By Steve MacInnis
Staff Writer

It's the kind of business the majority of companies strive for but only the best achieve.

Consistent good sales of a product over 80 years indicate someone must be doing something right. In this case, the formula has been hard work.

The final chapter in the success story of Dave Epstein Ltd. is being written as the legacy left behind by one of Cape Breton's most colourful businessmen came to end Saturday.

"It will be a well-known door that will be closing," says Erwin Epstein, whose father, Dave, began the firm in 1907.

Under the slogan "Quality comes first" Epstein offered famous names in men's clothing, from head-to-toe, for all shapes and sizes.

"I think of my father as a man ahead of his time," says the younger Epstein, pointing to a few of his father's sometimes zany promotion ideas.

"Meet me face to face," was a classic slogan. With it, Epstein challenged everyone to come and see the man whose face was imprinted on everything from travel bags to road signs.

Even road signs in Cape Breton advised travellers how far they were from Epstein's shop. The signs could even be found across Canada and in various countries around the world.

An avid sports fan, Epstein sponsored numerous sporting events here, and local athletes who competed outside the area. From swimming to running to softball the Epstein name turned-up on many a team or individual's athletic sweater.

Promotion was one route to success. "I was taught to build-up a reputation," says Erwin, who joined his father in the business in 1949.

Although the retail section of the company is closing, the Epstein name won't vanish completely.

Erwin will move from Charlotte Street to the new Commerce Tower Building on the corner of Dorchester Street and the Esplanade to open a speciality shop. Companies will be able to purchase clothing such as employee uniforms, and other bulk items.

Epstein's closing leaves only two men's stores on Charlotte Street. At one time there were six.

The reason Erwin has decided to cut back the business's size is because he wants to take life a bit easier.

There are no other family members who want to take over the store. Erwin doesn't want to sell the business name. So the businessman says it's time to get out and begin to relax a little.

Erwin's father opened the business in Whitney Pier before moving to Charlotte Street in the building now occupied by McKnight's Music Store. In 1929, the Epstein Block was built.

Through the years, the store has become something of an institution in downtown Sydney. It was always a place for people to drop by, not just to buy clothes, but to chat, even to have a cup of coffee.

ERWIN EPSTEIN GOES over a family scrapbook under a photo of his late father, Dave Epstein.
Post photo by Steve MacInnis

"Being personal is the key. The retail business has gotten away from that type of service," says Erwin. He says it's something the family prided itself on.

Over the years, Erwin says he's watched many families grow-up. He now sees their children shopping in the store.

About his father, Erwin says he had "sincere love of people and was very personal." He says he inherited the same attitudes.

Dave Epstein, who came to Canada from Minsk in Poland, died last August. He was 95.

Erwin is proud of the contribution his family has made to Sydney's business community. He also takes pride in the honest reputation the store has earned.

At a time when many business closures are a result of poor management or poor quality merchandise, many people may think it refreshing to see a store close voluntarily, and keeping its good name.

Erwin is not without a little sadness closing a family tradition. But he's looking to the new venture, to which he pledges the same care and service.

"It's the end of an era," says Erwin adding the time spent was most enjoyable and satisfying.

RIVIERA

May 3,1987

Dave Epstein Ltd.
300 Charlotte St.
Sydney, N.S.
B1P 1C7

Attention Mr.Erwin Epstein

Dear Erwin

I received the newspaper article about the completion of your business career in the Men's retail business, and want to add my congratulation's to the many others that will have been forthcoming from your many friends. Yours was a truly unique family business bearing the family name, but run in a modern fashion with all the marketing and promotional skills that are essential for success.

Over the years we at Riviera have treasured our relationship with you and now our feelings combine a sense of sadness at the passing of an era with a sense of satisfaction at a job well done. You have much to be proud of.

We wish you great satisfaction in your future endeavours and hope that our paths will cross soon.

Sincerely

Congratulations

JEUX CANADA GAMES '87 CAPE BRETON NOVA SCOTIA

DAVE EPSTIEN LTD

For receiving honourable mention for participating in the Jeux Canada Games '87 — Window Contest —

Downtown Sydney Business Association

Downtown Sydney

Brent Denny
President

Appreciates Road Signs.

R. J. Redmond of Halifax, who motored through Cape Breton a few days ago made a point of calling on Dave Epstein and congratulating him on the combined business foresight and public spiritedness that prompted the placing of road signs on all the leading highways of Cape Breton. He remarked that oftentimes people who have no intention of coming to Sydney decide upon seeing the signs that they will go to Cape Breton's capital. Mr. Epstein has had countless people from outside points come in to his store and thank him for the valuable assistance which his signs have given.

1927

CITIZENS COMPLAINS.

Harbour Royale Development Limited

invites you to attend the

Official Opening

of

Commerce Tower

15 Dorchester Street

Sydney, Nova Scotia

Tuesday, July 14, 1987

Cocktails and Hors d'Ouevres:
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Ribbon Cutting: 5:00 p.m.

Dave Epstein
LIMITED
EST'D 1907

CONTRACTING DIVISION
for all Types of Uniforms

Specializing in Supplying Famous Make Clothing And Haberdashery to Order

ERWIN EPSTEIN
Bus. (902) 564-6143
Res. (902) 539-9200

Commerce Tower, Sydney, N.S.

Dave Epstein
LIMITED
EST'D 1907

CONTRACTING DIVISION
for all Types of Uniforms

Specializing in Supplying Famous Make Clothing And Haberdashery to Order

15 Dorchester St., Commerce Tower
Sydney, N.S. B1P 5Y9

ERWIN EPSTEIN
Bus. (902) 564-6143
Res. (902) 539-9200

Personal history of Jews in Canada

An exhibit with many tales to tell

HULL

THE DIFFERENCE between most exhibitions and *A Coat Of Many Colors* is the difference between history and experience.

The show, which opened this week at the Canadian Museum of Civilization (it comes to Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum in May and June next year), is not so much an account of the Jews in Canada during the last 200 years, but a series of individual stories told through objects and videotapes.

This is an exhibition you listen to rather than look at. If the typical show forms an illustrated text book, *Coat* could be called a diary.

"The exhibition has a twofold purpose:" explains guest curator Sandra Morton Weizman. "To show how the Jewish community has shaped Canada

EXHIBIT Includes

RARE GLIMPSES OF A TIME PAST

THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE IN CANADA

MIKE PINDER

At the exhibit (above); Bronfman: occasional glances at the darker side

The articles on display include a hand-embroidered sampler made in Montreal around 1771, a child's wooden gravestone with a Hebrew prayer inscribed on it from Yorkton, Sask., and—on a lighter note—a 1920s road sign bearing the words: "Only 45 miles to Dave Epstein's Store, Sydney, Nova Scotia. He wants to see you." The articles are among the more than 300 artifacts that are part of an engrossing exhibition covering 200 years of Jewish history in Canada, which opened last week at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Que. Despite its generally optimistic tone, the exhibition glances occasionally at the darker side of the Jewish experience in Canada. One exhibit is a copy of an 1892 handbill appealing to German farmers to come to Canada—and pointedly noting that Jews were not welcome. But, said Alan Rose, executive vice-president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, "our aim is to tell our fellow Canadians about the substantial contribution that Jews have made to this country."

MIKE PINDER

Roles: The show, formally titled *A Coat of Many Colours*, provides glimpses of the widely varied roles that Jews have played in Canada's development. In preparing the show, curator Sandra Morton Weizman travelled across the country for more than three years looking for historical items. The ones that she found include a 183-year-old hammered brass menorah (the traditional nine-branched lamp that is used at the festival of Hanukkah) and a turn-of-the-century ritual circumcision knife. Most of the articles, said Morton Weizman, are "humble objects, things that ordinary people would have used."

The exhibit grew out of a suggestion made by Andrea Bronfman, the wife of billionaire Charles Bronfman, co-chairman of the Seagram Co. Ltd. and the major owner of the Montreal Expos baseball team. Cosponsored by the Museum of Civilization and the Canadian Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth Museum of the Diaspora in Tel Aviv, and with Seagram as principal corporate sponsor, the show resulted from 3½ years of research and organization.

Parable: After five months at the Museum of Civilization, the show will move to Winnipeg and later to Saskatoon, Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal and New York City before winding up at the Museum of the Diaspora in Tel Aviv in August, 1993. In a companion book, *A Coat of Many Colours: Two Centuries of Jewish Life in Canada*, published by Toronto's Lester & Orpen Dennys this month, Irving Abella, a professor of history at Toronto's York University, recounts the history of Jewish settlement in Canada. And in October, a television program on the exhibition is scheduled for broadcast by the CBC.

At a party and preview on March 31, Andrea Bronfman invoked the biblical parable of Joseph, whose father gave him a brilliantly colored coat. The boy's brothers, who were jealous of their father's love for Joseph, sold him into slavery. But Joseph survived and rose to become the most powerful man at the court of the Egyptian pharaoh. "Even when the bright colors of life seem to be dulled and greyed by severe problems," said Bronfman, "we are a people that persist in the idea that, as individuals working together, we can help make the world as bright and colorful as Joseph's coat."

Roots: The artifacts on display at the Museum of Civilization serve to emphasize the deep historical roots that Jews have put down in Canada. Some of the oldest exhibits, including a lock, a bullet and part of a wineglass, came from Fort Michilimackinac (now Mackinaw City, Mich.), a military post and fur-trading centre. Among those who used the fort was fur trader Ezekiel Solomons, who went on to become one of the founders of the first Canadian synagogue, in Montreal in 1766.

Although the exhibit does not formally address anti-Semitism, there are occasional reminders of the hardships experienced by Jews in Canada. One exhibit is a document carried by one of the Jews interned during the Second World War in a prison camp at Ripples, N.B. In England, at the outbreak of the war, British officials ordered the arrest of many Jews from Germany and Nazi-ruled European countries as enemy aliens and sent them to Canada for internment. For her part, Morton Weizman said that she hoped the exhibit would appeal to Canadians of all ethnic and religious backgrounds. In that way, she added, the exhibit may help to foster understanding and tolerance for an enterprising community that has helped to shape the nation.

NORA UNDERWOOD *with DAVID HATTER in Ottawa*

Combines to compete in Duathlon Relay race

The Cape Breton Combines, a team of local runners and cyclists, will be one of a number of teams participating in the inaugural running of the Cabot Trail Duathalon Relay Race.

The race will take place on Saturday, Oct. 19.

This event will challenge six participants per team to combine running and cycling skills on the 180 mile course around the Trail.

The race will begin at the Gaelic College at 6 a.m. and will finish 14 hours later in Baddeck.

The Combines, comprised of Ambrose Delaney, Jim Guy, Brian Bagnell, Robert Carroll, Peter Hanna and David Gabriel, are sponsored by Dave Epstein Ltd. and Ramsey's Honda Motorcycle Shop.

The event will be conducted in the Tour de France style and is comprised of nine legs.

The following is the schedule-

Leg One: 6 a.m. Start at Gaelic College
A 15km run

Oct 17 91

Leg Two: 7:20 a.m. Start at Nova Scotia Picnic Park North Shore
One person will run 14km then cycle 43km over Smokey to Igonish

Leg Three: 10:20 a.m. Start at St. Peter's Hall, Ingonish
Two team members, a runner passing off to a cyclist, will complete a 12km run followed by a 43km cycle

Leg Four: 1:00 p.m. Start at Big Interval Picnic Park
A 12km run over North Mountain, elevation of 385 metres

Leg Five: 2:15 p.m. Start at northern base of North Mountain (near the Lone Sheiling)
A 19.5km cycle to the top of MacKenzie Mountain

Leg Six: 2:55 p.m. Start at Benjie's Lake
A 14km run with the last 8kms dropping rapidly

Leg Seven: 3:45 p.m. Start at Trout Brook Picnic Park
A 52km cycle with a pack start going through Cheticamp

Leg Eight: 5:30 p.m. Start at Joe's Scarecrow and Diner
A 31km cycle using time trial format with cyclists leaving at one minute intervals

Leg Nine: 6:30 p.m. Start at Gravel pit at the base of Hunter's Mountain, near the churches
An 18km run over Hunters Mountain through rear Baddeck, finishing at the town hall in Baddeck at approximately 8 p.m.

TOWN OF SYDNEY MINES
INCORPORATED 1889

OFFICE OF TOWN CLERK & TREASURER

SYDNEY MINES, N.S.

August 17, 1982

Dave Epstein Limited
300 Charlotte Street
Sydney, Nova Scotia
B1P 1C7

Dear Sir:

Following is a list of tenders for police uniforms received by the Sydney Mines Board of Police Commissioners:

Dave Epstein Limited	$3,175.70
J. R. Gaunt Canada Inc.	3,802.15
R. Nicholls Distributors	3,385.80
Yazer Bros. Ltd.	3,948.00

The Board accepted the tender of R. Nicholls Distributors in the amount of $3,385.80.

Thank you very much for submitting a tender.

Yours very truly,

Lois Gordon

Lois Gordon (Mrs.)
TOWN-CLERK

LG/wcb

Retired Businessman Likes To Talk About Early Years

There was a time when Victoria Road, not Charlotte Street was the main business section of Sydney; when the streets were paved with ashes, not pavement and when the languages of many different nations could be heard on the streets of Whitney Pier.

The year was 1907, three years after Sydney officially became a town and the year Dave Epstein came to Canada from what was known as "white Russia".

It was a time when unemployment is Sydney was almost non-existent.

The steel plant had just been opened and the town was booming with a population that had quickly mushroomed to 18,000.

Immigrants from Poland, Russia, Hungary and Italy, as well as Scotland and Newfoundland came to Sydney by plan or by fate to begin a new life, many speaking only their native languages.

They brought with them different cultures and traditions and established their own churches, giving the area a much more "cosmoploitan" character than it has today, recalls Mr. Epstein.

It was a struggle to get started but things were "no better in the old country". In time they "assumed Canadian identities" and "contributed a lot to this country".

Dave Epstein

LONG HOURS

Work hours were long and the pay was a fraction of what it is now, though Mr. Epstein says a nickel then was worth more than a dollar today. Working in a men's clothing store he earned $2.50 for a 72 hour week. Most of the population worked at the steel plant for nine and one half cents an hour on shifts varying from 11 hours in the day to 13 hours at night.

Victoria Road consisted of 25 stores with some of the old buildings still standing. Customers travelled to the store by horse and buggy on streets covered with ashes to minimize the mud. They stepped on to wooden or ash-covered sidewalks and entered the store to buy suits for around $12.

In spite of the long hours of work people seemed to find more time for recreation, Mr. Epstein says.

Summers were filled with baseball, tennis, picnics and dances. Rowboats could be rented for 25 cents near the site of the present Yacht Club and this was a popular way to spend a lazy afternoon. In later years, organized leagues played baseball in Victoria Park and Mr. Epstein remembers the times in 1931 and again in 1935 when the Dave Epstein Tigers, voluntarily sponsored by him, were invited to Cornerbrook and Grand Falls, Newfoundland, to challenge the local teams.

POPULAR PASTIME

Roller skating was also a popular pastime and many a lasting relationship was built on outings to the old Rosalyn Rink.

A big annual event, also sponsored by Mr. Epstein was the five-mile swimming race from North Sydney to Sydney which attracted swimmers from all over Cape Breton.

In winter, skating, hockey and the Glace Bay Millionaires ruled the day. There were sleigh rides over the ice from Sydney Mines to Sydney and dances to fill the winter nights. Generally, people "made their own amusement".

But the backbone of all recreation was visiting friends and neighbours at their homes. Mr. Epstein said there was more on foot over the Cabot Trail gave him the rare opportunity of sampling some of that openness and warmth that seems to have ded with the era. At that time re was no invitation needed, e was welcomed into the home and immediately offered food and drink, he said.

Today it is different. "People are too busy" and "the world is on wheels". With everyone travelling by car instead of on foot we no longer have the chance to know our neighbour as we once did.

With all this, if he had the chance to turn the clock back would he do it? Definitely not, Mr. Epstein said.

"Life was too dead, too quiet." There weren't any of the luxuries there are today and "we probably couldn't stand the economic conditions".

However, Mr. Epstein likes talking about old times and old friends. He "lives with it".

His house is filled with pictures and souvenirs of both the history of Sydney he saw and

Personal history of Jews in Canada

An exhibit with many tales to tell

HULL

THE DIFFERENCE between most exhibitions and *A Coat Of Many Colors* is the difference between history and experience.

The show, which opened this week at the Canadian Museum of Civilization (it comes to Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum in May and June next year), is not so much an account of the Jews in Canada during the last 200 years, but a series of individual stories told through objects and videotapes.

This is an exhibition you listen to rather than look at. If the typical show forms an illustrated text book, *Coat* could be called a diary.

EXHIBIT includes such items as, clockwise from above: a sign for a store in Sydney, N.S.; linen and silk tapestry made in Montreal in 1771; Jack Leve's gear; a 200-year-old Menorah.

96 CHNS
AM STEREO

1313 Barrington Street
P.O. Box 400
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada, B3J 2R2

(902) 422-1651
Fax: 422-5330

Erwin Epstein
15 Dorchester St.,
Commerce Tower,
Sydney, Nova Scotia
B1P 5Y9

Dear Erwin;

First, I hope you don't mind first name basis...if so...opps... sorry!

Really enjoyed talking with you the other day at Atlantic Acura. It's always nice to trade conversation with someone whom you have mutual aquaintances with. It hink you were just pulling out of the lot when I mentioned your name on the radio, & how impressive the cars must be if you were to come all the way from Sydney to purchase & service the vehicle. Bruce Hill thought that mention of you really added a touch more credability to the days' remote broadcast.

Please extend greetings to my father-in-law, Clayton if you see him in your travels. Another good friend I know we both have the pleasure of knowing is Dr. Marsh. I worked for him for a time at CHER after I left CJCB.

You mentioned when we spoke of the way I was dressed. I do like fine clothes & thanks to my wifes' impecable tastes, I manage to wear good clothes. With this in mind, I really want to go in and visit you the next time I am visiting Clayton & Rhoda. With your admirable tastes & history in the business, I know you could offer some hints, as perhaps I could lend a few observations in the marketing field. (although I'm sure here, too, I will probably learn greatly from you as well.)

Once again, Erwin, very nice to have met you. Too bad we didn't have longer to spend, but as I said, 'in the Cape'...soon, eh?

have a nice day,

Morrissey Dunn

Nov 18/91

Dave Epstein
Limited
304

MUSÉE CANADIEN DES CIVILISATIONS
CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION

July 21, 1994

Mr. Erwin Epstein
500 Kings Road, #1801
Sydney, Nova Scotia
B1S 1B2

Dear Mr. Epstein:

As our Collections Management staff are now returning the road sign which you loaned to CMC for the exhibit "A Coat of Many Colours", it is my pleasure to thank you for your valued participation.

It has been a long and successful tour and it is clearly due to the knowledge and generosity of people like you that the exhibit was so well received in Canada, Israel and the U.S.A.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Stephen Inglis
Director, Research

Organizations and People

Sydney's Dave Epstei

Showman-merchant enj

By
FRANK RASKY

SYDNEY, NS —
Dave Epstein would like his many friends and former customers in Nova Scotia to know that he's been enjoying a "very geshmak" Rosh Hashanah — the 95th High Holidays he has observed.

A good many Maritimers will be happy to hear that news, because for more than 80 years the showman-merchant's store on Charlotte St. here dressed them all . . . "the big and the small, the short and the tall."

Using that slogan, he fitted outsize suits for circus midgets and traveling carnival giants.

He was the promoter who sponsored walking, running and swimming races. He dispatched his Dave Epstein Tigers to compete with other softball teams throughout Atlantic Canada up to Newfoundland.

And the master showman still has in his possession a faded photo dating back to 1926, when he drove a tin lizzy bearing a monster parade float of a Dave Epstein-suited mammoth Maritimer.

Epstein was recalling these and other bits of nostalgia as he relaxed in his photo-decorated room in the Spring Garden Villa for old folks, where the still spry nonagerian entertains his cronies with stories of the past.

"I may have been born poor, but I've had a very full and rich life," he says.

Dave Epstein.

A refugee from pogroms in a Russian shtetl near Minsk, he arrived in Sydney as a 15-year-old immigrant.

He remembers how his merchant tailor uncle, Morris Lubchansky, provided him with a 125-pound pack of dry goods and sent him to peddle the merchandise on foot in the neighboring bush country.

"I didn't speak English very good, but I did pick up Gaelic from the Scottish settlers," he says. "I still remember a few Gaelic words. The most important one was 'conyaracha,' which sounds like Hebrew but means 'hello.'

"I didn't sell much *schoira* to the poor people. But they were kindly folk, and they'd give me a big hello plus food and shelter, refusing to take a penny in payment for their hospitality."

He worked for a period in his uncle's store. "I learned from him that inferior quality is never a bargain at any price," he says.

He made that his credo when he ultimately opened his own store catering to Cape Bretoners, no matter what their girth or height.

"I was always a great one for promotion," he says. Customers driving in to Sydney were enticed by his novelty
They would
number of mil
and invite the
Me Face To F
Epstein."

**As a newsp
he arranged
of his road si
Baffin Island
the Eastern C
tic. It inform
that it was
miles to Sydn
Dave Epstei
meet you."**

He is prou

Dave Ep
an Epste

Keren Hatarbut Institute
788 Marlee Ave., Toronto
Conversational Hebrew
ALL LEVELS: Adults, teens: Evenings
Audio-visual method for beginners
Beginners, intermediate & advanced start Oct. 15
Register NOW - Call Joseph Klinger, 787-0197

NER ISRAEL YESHIVA COLLEGE
625 Finch Avenue West, Willowdale
Provide for
KADDISH SERVICES and OBSERVING YAHRZEIT
and MEMORIAL PLAQUES
Please invest in the future of the Yeshiva
by including Ner Israel in your will.
CALL 636-2360

Parties for all occasions

la, Oy Canada in Jewish Museum Exhibit

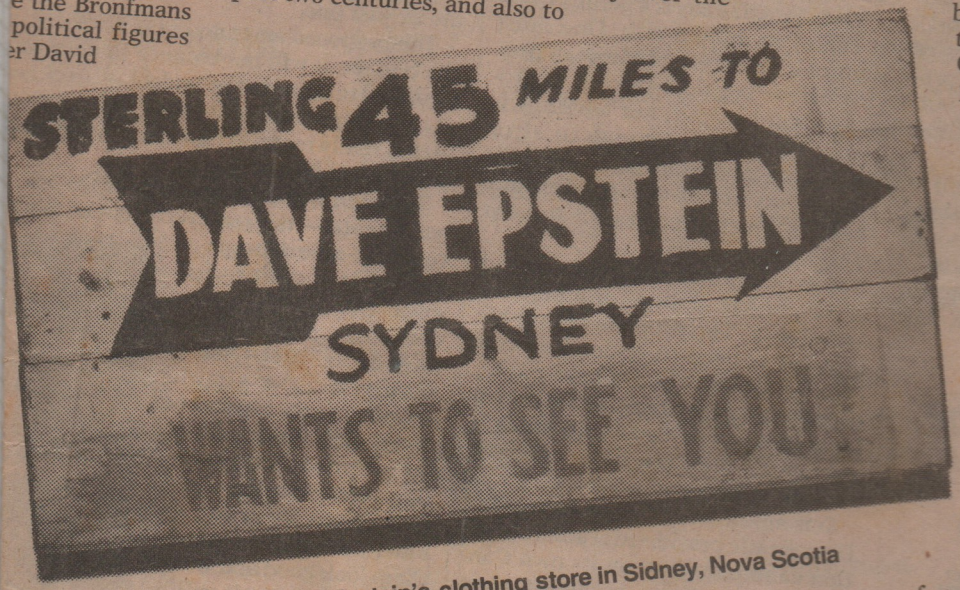
uch early artifacts depicting the Ten an eight-year-old h Judah in 1771, skin parchment a's first Jewish and Portuguese

nity is relatively ing only about n internationally e the Bronfmans political figures er David

Canadians Canadians instead of Americans."

The exhibition's curator, Sandra Morton Weizman of Calgary's Glenbow Museum, travelled across Canada, from British Columbia to the Maritime provinces, gathering the hundreds of artifacts seen in "A Coat of Many Colours."

"There's really a two-fold theme here," Mrs. Weizman said, "to show how the Jewish community has contributed to the development of Canadian society over the past two centuries, and also to



Sign For Dave Epstein's clothing store in Sidney, Nova Scotia

s h o w how Canada, through its unique geography, climate and culture, has shaped the Jewish identity."

Some of the more distinctively Canadian objects on display are the cricket medal won at a Canadian Pacific Railway picnic in 1926 by a Jewish blacksmith named Charles Zuidema, the photographs of Jewish hockey teams from the early years of the century with names such as The Sporting Judeans, and a 1937 insignia pin of the Hebrew Snowshoers' Association of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Jewish contribution to the rural life of Canada is noted with particular care in the exhibition. Zahava Hanen, a third generation farmer in Turner Valley, Alberta, and Canada's only Jewish woman rancher, has donated her family's branding irons, hand-forged koshering knives and a farming account ledger, written in both English and Hebrew, from the 1920s.

The idiosyncrasies of the Canadian Jewish immigrant experience occasionally have an almost comical ring, such as the story of Newman Dubinsky, a Ukrainian-born Jew who emigrated to Sydney, Nova Scotia and who developed such a love for the Gaelic culture of his new island home that for the rest of his life he dressed in the Cape Breton tartan, even when praying in synagogue.

While it is by no means the primary focus of the exhibition, "A Coat of Many Colours" does touch on the history of persecution Jews faced in Canada. In 1807, Ezekiel Hart was elected to the Assembly of Lower Canada (Quebec), but because he refused to take the oath of office on the Christian Bible, he was not permitted to take his seat.

A far more haunting memory for contemporary Canadians is the fact that in the years preceding World War II, the immigration policies of the W. L. Mackenzie King government were notoriously anti-Semitic: in 1939, the *S.S. St. Louis*, the famous passenger ship filled with Jewish refugees which was refused landing permission throughout the Western Hemisphere was also turned away by Canada and forced to return to Europe.

By and large, though, the Canadian Jewish immigrant experience has been a remarkably unfettered success story; and in the post-Holocaust era, Canadian Jews have been in the forefront on numerous human rights issues, including the placement of Indochinese refugees in Canada and the airlifting of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

"A Coat of Many Colours" is complemented by a well-conceived series of videotaped oral histories. In one, Monty Hall, the Winnipeg-born TV game-show host of "Let's Make a Deal" fame, recalls how his immigrant grandfather was met at the Winnipeg train station by an outreach representative of the small Jewish community whose duty it was to call out, in Yiddish, *"S'doh Yiddin?"* ("Any Jews here?")

In another poignant interview segment, a survivor of Auschwitz describes how a vast Nazi storage room at the death-camp, filled with looted treasures, had been called "Kanada," a name which conjured up for the prisoners the unimaginable wealth and promise of the faraway, frozen land.

"A Coat of Many Colours" is on exhibit at the Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Avenue, New York through Jan. 2, 1994.

Orr

Nova Scotia's blue and white uniforms are modelled by a number of the athletes who will represent the province at the 1987 Canada Winter Games to take place in Cape Breton Feb. 15-28. The outfits consist of ski boots, sweat pants, ski pants, turtleneck sweaters, sweat tops, ski jackets, scarves, hats, mitts and kit bags. Modelling the outfits are, from left, figure skater Colleen MacDonald of Dominion, speed skater David Doyle of Sydney Mines, wrestler Chris Chapman of Bridgewater, and basketball player Keith Donovan of Glace Bay. The uniforms were designed by Bill Dauphinee of BRY Consultants of Halifax, and supplied by Dave Epstein Men's Wear Ltd. of Sydney.